

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1,2 and 6-9 remain in this application. Claims 2 and 6 are withdrawn as a result of an earlier restriction requirement.

Claims 3-5 have been canceled. Claims 10-12 have been added.

The examiner has acknowledged that claims 7 -9 are directed to allowable subject matter.

As amended, Claim 1 adds the additional recess feature, as encouraged by the examiner, and a lug element for securing the handle member side walls to the lower surface of the floor panel.

In view of the examiner's earlier restriction requirement, applicant retains the right to present claims 2 and 6 in a divisional application.

(Claim Rejections)

The examiner has rejected Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102 as anticipated by Naka et al (5072257). The examiner states the Naka et al (figure 2) shows all the elements of Applicant's claim 1 including at least one panel lifter (6) having top wall 6(b) and two side walls (6a), the side walls slidably extending through a first and second slots (figure 13) rigidly attached to the lower surface (indirectly) for vertical travel of the top wall and side walls upwardly through a generally rectangular panel recess.

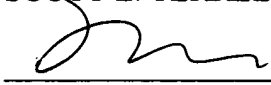
As amended, Naka et al neither anticipates, teaches nor suggests the panel lifter handle of the present invention. Applicant respectfully traverses the examiner's argument. Naka et al discloses a floor panel device *for fixing a floor panel* to a pedestal support.

Appl. No. 10/684,018
Amdt. Dated February 14, 2007
Reply to Office action of November 14, 2006

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,


SCOTT L. TERRELL, P.C.



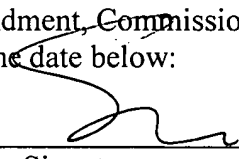
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